

## **Elwha River Restoration-Monitoring the Response of Fisheries and Aquatic Ecosystems at the Watershed Scale**

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Removal of two dams on the Elwha River beginning in 2008 represents one of the largest river restoration opportunities in the Pacific Northwest. Because the majority of the Elwha River drains Olympic National Park and is considered pristine habitat, the project offers a unique opportunity to assess the recovery of fish populations and aquatic ecosystems at the watershed scale. The authors present a monitoring strategy that is directly tied to the Elwha Fisheries Restoration Plan which drives how restoration will be conducted within the watershed. Using principles of adaptive management, the monitoring plan attempts to recognize the uncertainties of the ecosystem response but breaks the potential ecosystem response into a series of testable hypotheses. Initial methodologies and preliminary monitoring are discussed.